



## PRESS RELEASE

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California is deeply saddened by the loss of one of its jurists, the Honorable Napoleon A. Jones, Jr. He passed away on December 12, 2009, of cancer. He was 69.

Judge Jones was appointed to the federal bench by President William J. Clinton on September 15, 1994. He assumed senior status on September 19, 2007.

Prior to joining the federal bench, Judge Jones worked for California Rural Legal Assistance and for Defenders Inc of San Diego. He worked in private practice and served as a San Diego Municipal Court and San Diego Superior Court Judge.

Judge Jones was born in Hodge, Louisiana in 1940, and was raised in San Diego where he attended public schools. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State University in 1962, and served in the United States Army from 1962 to 1965. Judge Jones was a social worker before earning his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1971.

Judge Jones is survived by his wife, Dr. Rosalyn Baxter-Jones, a daughter Lena Laini Jones, and two grandsons.

The court, the bar, and the public will mourn his passing. Chief Judge Irma E. Gonzalez described Judge Jones as, “the most gentle, kind and even-tempered judge I have ever met. He loved his job and his colleagues, and even when he was in tremendous pain, he came to work to do justice. It was his goal in life to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to have their day in court.”

Services are planned for Tuesday, December 22, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at the Bayview Baptist Church, 6134 Benson Avenue, San Diego.